

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently Amended) An isolated or a purified protein ~~involved in the~~ virulence of a *Leishmania* parasite, wherein the protein has SEQ ID NO:2.
- 3-15. (Canceled).
16. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the protein according to claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.
- 17-53. (Canceled).
54. (New) The isolated or purified protein of claim 2, wherein the isolated or purified protein is recombinantly expressed in a host cell.